

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-10 AID-20 OMB-01 SS-15

MMS-03 IGA-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7593

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S E C R E T MEXICO 6267

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: CONSEQUENCES OF TRANSFERRING USSOUTHCOM FROM PANAMA.

REF: STATE 164406

1. REFERENCE 2(A) REFTEL: LOCATION OF USSOUTHCOM IN LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY HAS HAD VARYING EFFECT ON CITED DIPLOMATIC, MILITARY AND POLITICAL FACTORS IN US-LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS OVER THE YEARS. MORE IMPORTANTLY, EFFECT WOULD APPEAR TO VARY WIDELY AMONG LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES. FROM POINT OF VIEW OF US-MEXICAN RELATIONS, WE ESTIMATE CURRENT LOCATION PROBABLY HAS NEGLIGIBLE IMPACT ON US-MEXICAN MILITARY RELATIONS AND, ON BALANCE, HAS MIDLY ADVERSE EFFECT ON DIPLOMATIC AND POLITICAL RELATIONS. CONSEQUENTLY, WE BELIEVE TRANSFER HEADQUARTERS USSOUTHCOM (WE INTERPRET REFTEL AS MEANING SERVICE COMPONENTS WOULD REMAIN) TO CONTINENTAL US WOULD BE SOMEWHAT BENEFICIAL IN OVERALL US-MEXICAN RELATIONS. TRANSFER TO PUERTO RICO WOULD AROUSE SOMEWHAT LESS ENTHUSIASM IN MEXICAN VIEW BUT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO PRESENT LOCATION.

2. REFERENCE 2(B) REFTEL: WE THINK GOM DOES CONSIDER US MILITARY PRESENCE IN CANAL ZONE AS DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO PANAMA CANAL

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TREATY ISSUE. REMOVAL OF HEADQUARTERS USSOUTHCOM WOULD LIKELY HAVE

BENEFICIAL EFFECT IN SEEKING MEXICAN SUPPORT FOR US POSITION ON
VARIOUS PHASES OF THE TREATY ISSUE, AND THE PURPOSE OF RESIDUAL
US FORCES COULD BE MORE EASILY IDENTIFIED BY MEXICO AS PROTECTION
AND DEFENSE OF CANAL.
MCBRIDE

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NNN

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